

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Royal Gorge Field Office  
3028 E. Main Street  
Cañon City, CO 81212

## CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

NUMBER: DOI-BLM-CO-F020-2016-0057 CX

CASEFILE/PROJECT NUMBER (optional): COC-36837

PROJECT NAME: Lohnes Right-of-Way Assignment/Renewal

PLANNING UNIT:

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

New Mexico Principal Meridian, Colorado

T. 49 N., R. 9 E.,

sec. 9, lot 1.

The area described contains 0.446 acres.

APPLICANT: Steven T. and Nancy L. Lohnes

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION

Mr. and Mrs. Lohnes are seeking assignment of a right-of-way for an existing road across public lands. This road passes through both public (BLM) and private lands. The current description of the area of public land in which the right-of-way is located (sec. 9, NE1/4SW1/4) is incorrect according to BLM records and will be corrected to (sec. 9, lot 1). The legal description above reflects this change. This right-of-way is set to expire in July of 2017 and should therefore be renewed at the time of this assignment.

PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW:

Name of Plan: Royal Gorge Resource Management Plan

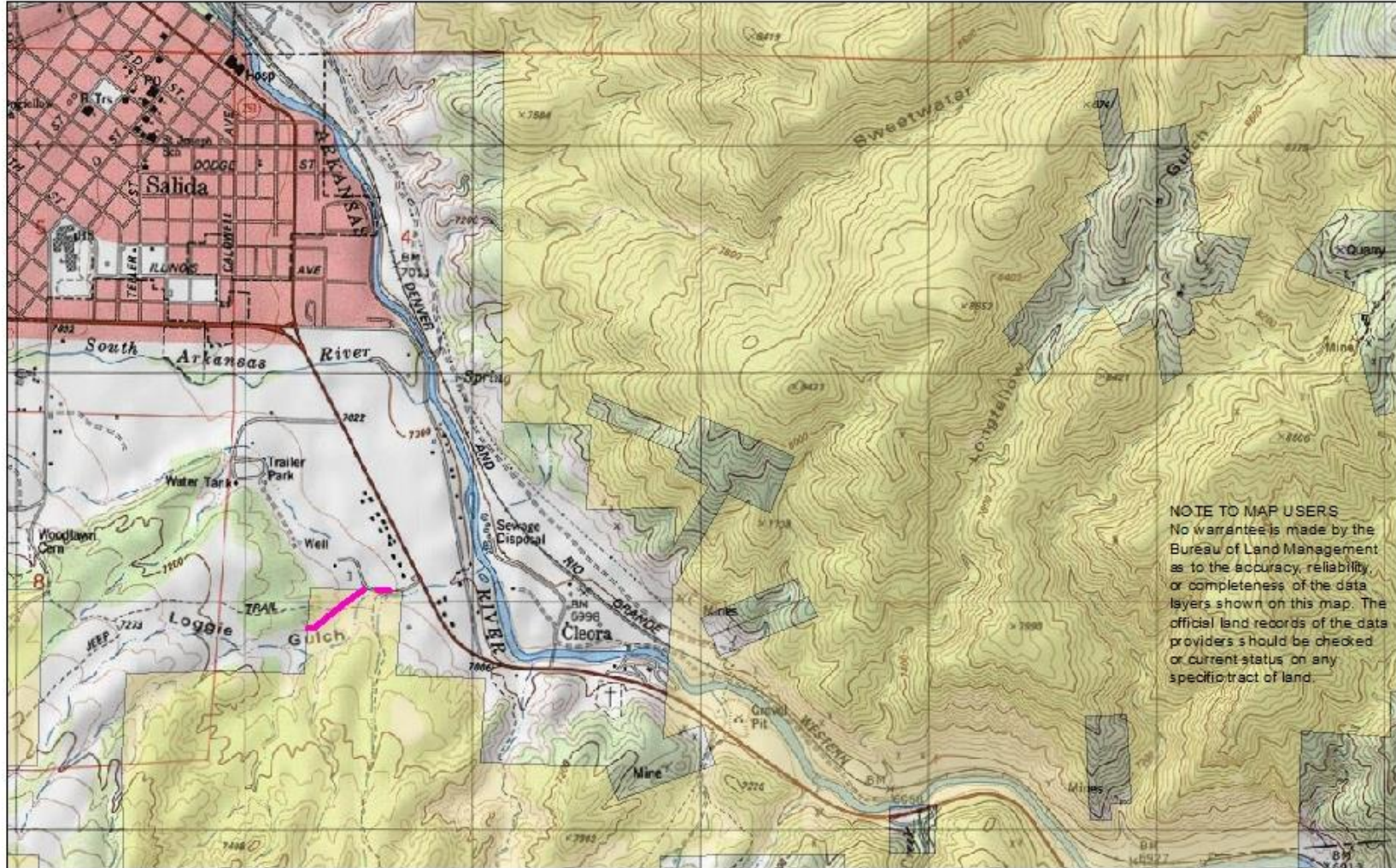
Date Approved: May, 1996

Decision Number: Page 2-5-12

Decision Language: *“Minor rights-of-way will be authorized on a case-by-case basis on proposals outside of exclusion areas. Minor rights-of-way could be authorized in avoidance areas only when stipulations will protect values.”*

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION REVIEW:** This proposed action is listed as a Categorical Exclusion in DOI Departmental Manual Part 516 Chapter 11.9 (E.9). None of the following exceptions in 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, apply.

Exclusion Criteria	YES	NO
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation, or refuge lands; wilderness areas; lands with wilderness characteristics; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.		X
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.		X
11. Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.		X
12. Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.		X



## Legend

— COC36837

## COC-36837 Lohnes Assignment & Renewal

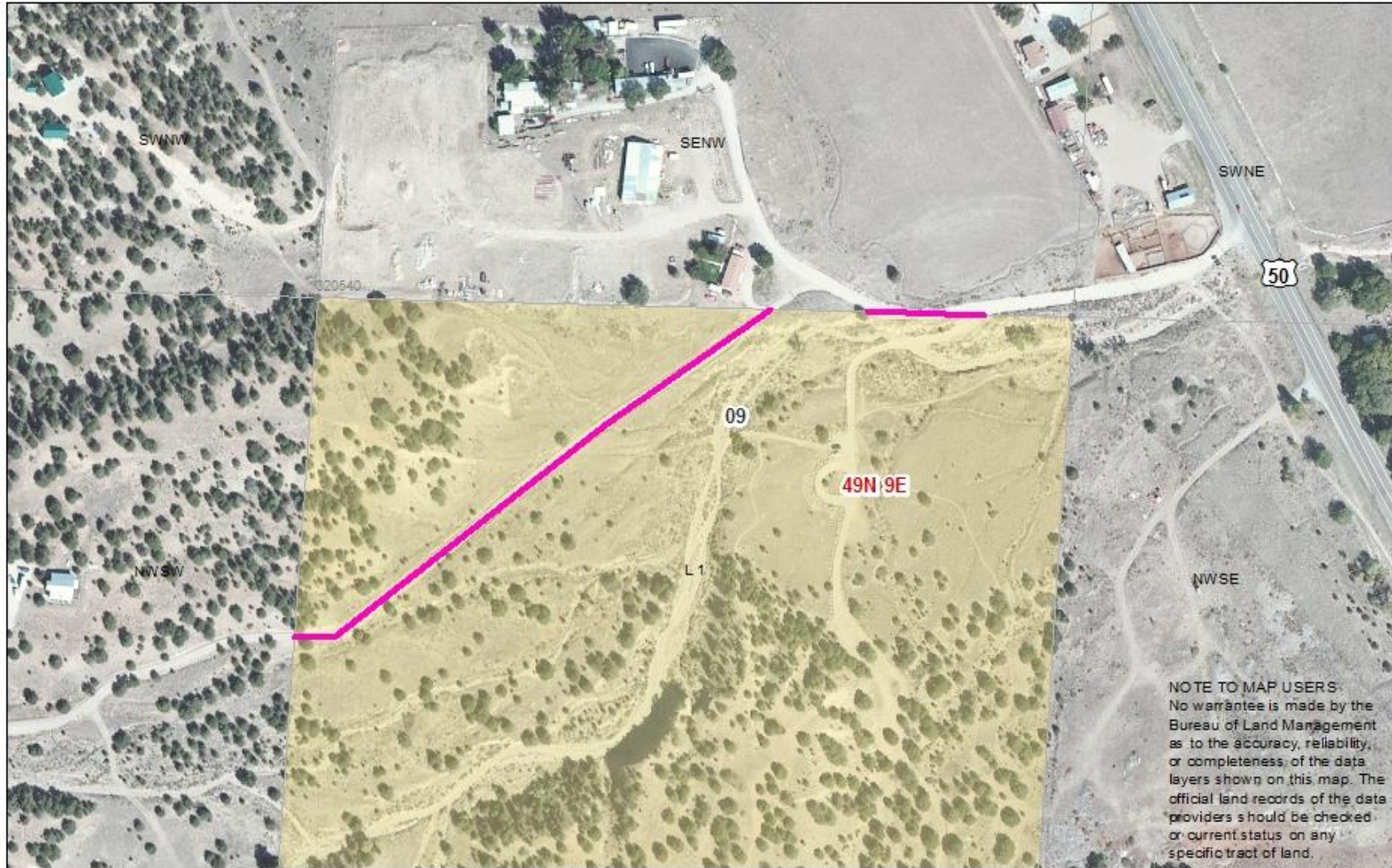
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NMPM, T49 N, R9 E, sec. 9.

0 0.375 0.75 1.5 Miles







## Legend

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## COC-36837 Lohnes Assignment & Renewal Project Map

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NMPM, T49 N, R9 E, sec. 9, lot 1.

0 0.045 0.09 0.18  
Miles



<b>INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM REVIEW</b>			
<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>Initials/date</b>
Matt Rustand	Wildlife Biologist	Terrestrial Wildlife, T&E, Migratory Birds	MR, 7/11/16
Jeff Williams	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	JW, 6/21/16
Chris Cloninger	Range Management Spec.	Range, Vegetation, Farmland	N/A
John Lamman	Range Management Spec.	Weeds	JL, 07/06/2016
Dave Gilbert	Fisheries Biologist	Aquatic Wildlife, Riparian/Wetlands	DG, 6/30/16
Stephanie Carter	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology, Waste Hazardous or Solid	---
Melissa Smeins	Geologist	Minerals, Paleontology	MJS, 7/01/2016
John Smeins	Hydrologist	Hydrology, Water Quality/Rights, Soils	JS, 6/15/16
Ty Webb	Fire Management Officer	Air Quality	TW, 7/7/16
Sean Hines	Cadastral Surveyor	Cadastral Survey	SJH, 06/24/2016
Linda Skinner	Outdoor Recreation Planner	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers,	LS 6/14/16
John Nahomenuk	River Manager	Recreation, Wilderness, LWCs, Visual, ACEC, W&S Rivers	-----
Jeremiah Moore	Forester	Forestry	JM, 6/14/2016
Monica Weimer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	MMW, 6/16/16
Michael Troyer	Archaeologist	Cultural, Native American	-----
Jennifer Whyte	CSO Lead Realty Specialist	Realty	06/14/2016
Steve Cunningham	Law Enforcement Ranger	Law Enforcement	
Ty Webb	Fire Management Officer	Fire	TW, 7/6/16

#### REMARKS:

Cultural Resources: No historic properties were found in the area of potential effect [see reports CR-050-RG-95-8 (N) and CR-RG-16-006 (P)]. Therefore, the proposed undertaking will have no effect on any historic properties (those eligible for the NRHP).

Native American Religious Concerns: No possible traditional cultural properties were located during the cultural resources inventory (see above). There is no other known evidence that suggests the project area holds special significance for Native Americans. Threatened and Endangered Species:

Paleontological Resources: The project area is located in the Dry Union Formation that has produced a diversity of scientifically important fossils, although they are generally rare; as a result the formation is considered to have high paleontological potential (PFYC 4). In order to prevent potential impacts to paleontologic resources, a stipulation will be attached to the ROW grant that directs the holder to notify the BLM in advance of any proposed work within the ROW. Any ground disturbing activity will require a pre-work survey to be conducted by a BLM

authorized paleontologist. In addition, the holder shall notify the BLM RGFO immediately if any vertebrate fossils or their traces are discovered during operations within this ROW. Operations may continue as long as the fossil specimen would not be damaged or destroyed by the activity. Within 5 working days of notification, the BLM RGFO shall evaluate or have evaluated such discoveries and shall notify the operator what action shall be taken with respect to such discoveries.

Threatened and Endangered Species: There are no occurrence records of threatened, endangered, or sensitive (special status) species with the bounds of the project area. A field survey of the proposed disturbance areas was conducted in July of 2016 for special status species. No indications of special status species were observed; therefore, the Proposed Action will not result in impacts to special status species.

COMPLIANCE PLAN (optional):

NAME OF PREPARER: Jennifer Whyte, CSO Lead Realty Specialist

SUPERVISORY REVIEW: Charlene Lucero, Acting Assistant Field Manager, Non-renewables  
7/18/2016

NAME OF ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR: /s/ Martin Weimer

DATE: 7/19/16

DECISION AND RATIONALE: I have reviewed this Categorical Exclusion and have decided to implement the Proposed Action.

This action is listed in the Department Manual as an action that may be categorically excluded. I have evaluated the action relative to the 12 criteria listed above and have determined that it does not represent an exception and is, therefore, categorically excluded from further environmental analysis.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL:                      /s/ Keith E. Berger  
Keith E. Berger, Field Manager

DATE SIGNED:    7/19/16